

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00

NSCE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 MC-02

ACDA-05 ACDE-00 EB-07 IGA-01 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

L-03 /065 W

----- 035185

O R 031829Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0036

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BONN

USCINCEUR

DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14231

DEFENSE FOR ISA ELLSWORTH AND DDR&E CURRIE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, GW, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: ROLAND II: FRENCH POLITICAL CONCERNS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE VOICED DISSATISFACTION WITH EVOLUTION OF ROLAND II DEAL, VIEWED FROM POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE. THEIR COMPLAINTS FOCUS ON PURPORTED LACK OF TECHNOLOGICAL FEED-BACK FROM ROLAND MODEL DEVELOPED IN U.S., AND ON PROBLEM OF THIRD-COUNTRY SALES. I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH DR. CURRIE TO DEAL WITH THIS POLITICAL PROBLEM IN A WAY CONSISTENT WITH THE IMPROVED FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT FORD AT MARTINIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. HIBON (FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DIPLOMATIC
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ADVISER) CALLED EMBASSY PCL/MIL OFFICER TO MOD TO

REGISTER FRENCH POLITICAL CONCERN OVER EVOLUTION OF ROLAND II DEAL. HIBON SAID THAT THE CONTRACT SIGNED BY GENERAL CREPIN OF THE FRENCH COMPANY AEROSPATIALE WITH THE HUGHES COMPANY HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH THE FRENCH MOD NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, WITH THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE NOTED THAT THE AEROSPATIALE-HUGHES AGREEMENT WAS UNDER REVIEW BY THE GOF, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE AGREEMENT CANNOT BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE MOD. HIBON ADDED THAT THE FRENCH ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE IDEA OF WORKING WITH THE U.S. ON MATTERS OF COOPERATIVE ARMAMENT PRODUCTION. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ARMAMENT COOPERATION IS A HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL SUBJECT IN FRANCE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, HAS TO BE CLOSELY AND CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED BY THE MOD. SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT ATTEMPTING TO FIX ANY BLAME FOR PAST EVENTS (BEGIN FYI HIBON SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT CREPIN NEVER SHOULD HAVE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITH HUGHES WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE FRENCH AND FRG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE END FYI), HIBON NOTED TWO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS THAT HE WISHED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION. FIRST, THE FRENCH WERE BOTHERED BY THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN-PRODUCED MODEL OF THE ROLAND II WAS TO BE PARTLY FUNDED BY THE FRENCH (AND PERHAPS THE GERMANS), BUT THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE TECHNOLOGY OF THIS NEW MODEL. HIBON SAID THAT WITHHOLDING THIS TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY FROM THE FRENCH CERTAINLY DID NOT SQUARE WITH THE CONCEPT OF "FAIR PLAY" THAT THE FRENCH NORMALLY ASCRIBE TO THE U.S. (EMBASSY COMMENT: HIBON DID NOT SEEM TO BE SURE OF HIMSELF IN PRESENTING THESE POINTS. MOREOVER, EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS ANY FOUNDATION TO THESE COMPLAINTS.) SECOND, THE FRENCH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIRD COUNTRY SALES FOR ROLAND II. HIBON STRESSED THAT FRANCE (AND GERMANY) HAD NOT PRODUCED THE ROLAND SYSTEM WITH A VIEW TO TURNING OVER THE EXPORT MARKET FOR THIS SYSTEM TO THE U.S. VERSION OF ROLAND. HE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE GOF WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE AMERICAN EXPORT OF ROLAND II WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 14231

CONCERNED ON THE MODALITIES FOR THIRD COUNTRY SALES. RECALLING THAT ROLAND WAS FRANCO-GERMAN PRODUCT, POL/MIL OFFICER ASKED WHETHER FRG WOULD MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO USG. HIBON RESPONDED THAT GERMANS AGREE THAT THIRD COUNTRY SALES ASPECT OF ROLAND II DEAL IS GOING BADLY, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE FRG INTENDED TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT WITH THE U.S. ALONG THE SAME LINES. IN CLOSING, HIBON SAID HE WANTED TO RAISE THE PROBLEM IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT TO UNDERLINE THE DEEP FRENCH PREOCCUPATION WITH IMPLICATION OF CURRENT STATE OF ROLAND II DEAL FOR THE FUTURE OF FRANCO-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, AS WELL AS FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN ARMAMENT MATTERS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF ROLAND II COOPERATION, WHICH SEEMED SO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AT BEGINNING, TURNED OUT TO BE FAILURE.

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3.COMMENTI LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH DR. CURRIE LATER THIS
WEEK TO EXPLORE HOW WE CAN DEAL WITH THIS POLITICAL
PROBLEM IN A WAY CONSISTENT WITH THE IMPROVED FRANCO-
AMERICAN COOPERATION ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT FORD AT
MARTINIQUE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, ROLAND II, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS14231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750194-0006
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750686/aaaadaqc.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROLAND II: FRENCH POLITICAL CONCERNS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, GE, FR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006